

Arthur Moody

A profile of one of JSC's familiar faces

Few have passed through JSC's gates without ever seeing the gleaming smile of Arthur Moody.

For more than 30 years, Moody has manned guard stations throughout the center and Ellington Field as an OMNISEC International employee. For many, it's his enthusiastic presence that greets them every morning.

"Mr. Moody's enthusiasm for living is contagious!" said JSC Center Director George W. S. Abbey. "He is a conscientious and dedicated employee who easily chases troubles away with his cheery smile."

"He was always in Building 1," said Aaron Cohen, former JSC director, from his post at Texas A&M University. "He always gave me a bit of friendly advice as I came in each morning – different things from his observations around the center about ways we could improve security or working conditions, and I always listened to what he had to say."

In fact, Cohen esteems Moody so much that he invited Moody to speak at his retirement ceremony in 1993. "Mr. Moody is very dedicated, has a good work ethic and a desire to do a good job for JSC," added Cohen. "He's the epitome of what a good employee should be."

Moody's strong character likely is the result of his diverse background. Born in Mobile, Ala., Moody's family moved to New York when he was 12. Teenage jobs

as a bell hop and elevator operator in the Times Square district sparked a desire to see the world and, at age 18, Moody enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

"I've traveled around the world seven times during my 21 years in the Merchant Marine," said Moody. "You can ask me anything about any place and I'll know it 'cause I've been there. I can teach those astronauts tricks!"

Moody also believes it was his exposure to so many different cultures that has made him such an impressive ambassador to JSC visitors and VIPs. "I was frequently posted in Mission Control during missions," he said. "I can relate to many of the international visitors and give them a good first impression of NASA."

On board the ship, Moody worked a variety of jobs, working as a deck hand or a cook, whatever needed to be done. Because the Merchant Marine transported commercial cargo around the globe, Moody frequently had his choice of destination.

"Initially, I traveled a lot to Europe," said Moody. "But then I tired of going to Europe, so I went to the Far East. Then to Africa – Cape Town, Ethiopia and Calcutta – you name it, I've been there."

Moody's pace didn't slow till years later, when he met his wife, Theresa, while in port in Galveston. They married in 1958, settled in Alvin and had five children. He joined JSC as a security guard in April 1969 and has been working here



Arthur Moody

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– Steven Sumner

since, sharing in many of NASA's historic moments.

"I was here, in the MCC crowd, waving my American flag during the Moon landing," said Moody. That was more than 30 years ago and Moody says he has made a lot of friends here in that time.

"I was once assigned as Buzz Aldrin's escort at an Apollo 11 anniversary event," said Moody. "And as we walked around, more people started coming up and talking to me. Mr. Aldrin turned around and said, 'I'm not going around with you anymore because you know more people here than I do!'"

Moody also was a designated escort to transport the lunar samples when they first arrived at JSC, and was frequently assigned as a guard for astronaut residences. He refers to former JSC legends such as Dr. Gilruth and Gene Kranz as friends.

"He is blessed with the ability to make people smile and appreciate the wonderful world they live in every day," said Steven Sumner, chief of Security and Moody's project manager. "He reminds me of a 'short little firecracker' with a smile from ear-to-ear that never disappears."

A reputation like that makes Moody crack a grin. "I love communicating with all people," said Moody. "Some folks are nice, some are very nice, and some are not so nice, but I am here to try and make them all a little happier." ■

Secretaries receive Bockting award for excellence

Arlene Andrews of the Mission Operations Directorate, M. Helen Hickman of the Flight Crew Operations Directorate, and Melissa P. Martinez of the Information Systems Directorate were recently presented with Marilyn J. Bockting Secretarial Excellence Awards in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the effective operation of JSC through professional competence and personal dedication.

Andrews was recognized in May for her contributions as secretary of the Portable Computer Systems Office. She quickly created an atmosphere of

efficiency and professionalism in the office after several months without a secretary. As part of her duties, she keeps track of all of the workstations and laptops in the office, including overseeing the configuration management system update requirements paperwork. As a result of her efforts, not one of the workstations or laptops has been misplaced. She has made contributions of her time and effort to make the office function more efficiently and has provided outstanding support to all members of the office.

Hickman was recognized in June for

her outstanding secretarial skills. She is dedicated to providing superior administrative support to the chief of the Vehicle Integration Test Office as well as to the entire office. She has been helpful in transitioning VITO to its new management. She has provided support to other offices, implemented efficiency methods, and reorganized the physical layout of the office to eliminate potential safety hazards.

Martinez was recognized in July for her contributions as secretary of the Information Services Office. This office requires a very knowledgeable and

customer service-oriented secretary. Martinez is excellent at dealing effectively with center customers and matching their service requirements with the appropriate ISO personnel. She interacts with a very diverse group of office employees with an equally diverse range of communication skills and is always courteous and patient in her attempts to distribute general information to all employees. In addition, she was instrumental in converting all office personnel over to the electronic timecard system in a very short time. ■



Helen Hickman

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Arlene M. Andrews

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Melissa P. Martinez

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